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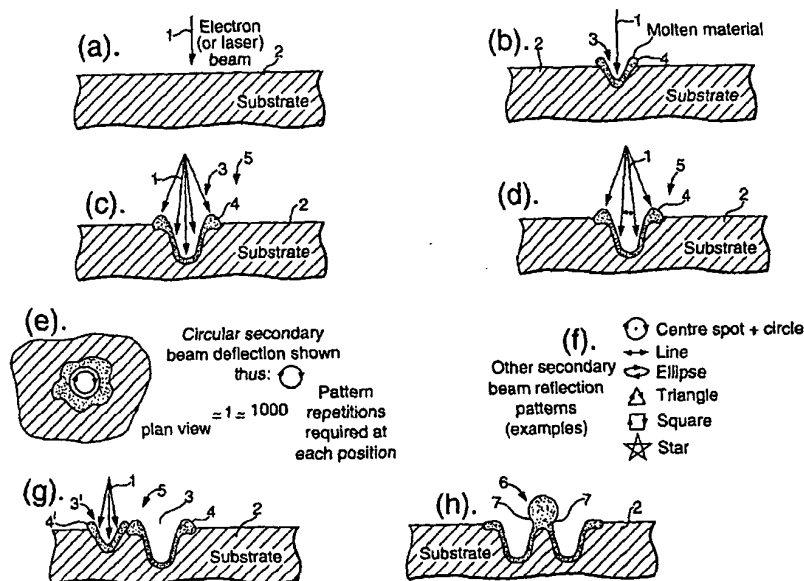
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(54) Title: SURFACE MODIFICATION



(57) Abstract: A method of operating on a workpiece comprises causing relative movement between the workpiece and a power beam in a traverse direction so as to expose a series of locations on the workpiece to the power beam. At each location the power beam is caused to move relative to the workpiece in a predetermined manner having a component transverse to the traverse direction, and workpiece material is melted and displaced by the power beam so as to form a cavity or hole.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B23K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 577 833 A (NIPPON STEEL CORP) 12 January 1994 (1994-01-12)	1-3, 5, 11-24, 28-41
Y	column 3, line 22 -column 5, line 13  abstract; figures	4, 6-10, 25-27, 42-46
Y	US 3 632 398 A (KONIG DIETER) 4 January 1972 (1972-01-04)	4
A	column 1, line 71 -column 2, line 14	1-3, 5-46
Y	US 5 593 606 A (OWEN MARK D ET AL) 14 January 1997 (1997-01-14)	6, 7
A	column 5, line 43 -column 6, line 11  -/--	1-5, 8-46

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